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The TAHRIK-i-Jadid

Digitized by Khilafat Library Rabwah

Editor :

NASEEM SAIFI

Fath 1353 H.S.—December 1974 C.E.

The Minister for State Mr. Torto and Mr. Forey of the Education Ministry laying foundation stone of the Ahmadiyya School, Missingbi, SierraLeone.

محترم وزیر صاحب برائے مملکت مسٹر ٹورٹو اور مسٹر فورے نمائیندہ وزارت تعلیم،
احمدیہ سیکنڈری سکول مسنگبی - سیرالیون کا سنگ بنیاد رکھ رہے ہیں

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

MONTHLY

TAHRIK-I-JADID

RABWAH

VOL. X — No. 12

December 1974

Editor

NASEEM SAIFI

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MUTTAQI

The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, says:

Friends, you should know that the *Muttaqi* (one who fears God) is never ruined. When two parties oppose each other with enmity and carry it to its extreme then the party that is God-fearing in the sight of Allah receives help from the heavens and thus this kind of feuds are settled through heavenly decrees. Look at our Chief and Master the Holy Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him; how weak was he in Mecca and how highly placed were Abu Jahl and others like him. Hundreds of thousands of people became bitterest enemies of the Holy Prophet, peace be on him. What was it that granted him victory in these circumstances? It was his righteousness and purity of heart. So, friends, you should follow in his footsteps. Enter this house (of righteousness) with great strength of heart and then you will see how soon the help of God will arrive for you. The God who is hidden from the eyes but shines more than everything else, whose grandeur frightens even the angels, does not like the overcleverness and disrespect; He shows mercy to those who fear Him. So, you should fear Him and you must first weigh whatever you have to say. You are His Jamaat which He has raised to be a model of goodness. He who does not abandon falsehood and whose lips do not shun telling lies and whose heart is filled with evil thoughts, he will be cut off from this Jamaat. O ye the servants of Allah, make your hearts clean and wash your inner selves. You can please everybody with hypocrisy and double-faced actions, but with these things you will attract the wrath of God. Have mercy on your souls and save your posterity from ruination. God can never be pleased with you if you have some one else dearer to your heart than He is. Sacrifice your life in His way and merge yourself in Him and Him alone—that is, if you wish to see Him in this very world.

(Raz-i-Haqiqat pp 3-5)

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The Annual Gathering

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THE Promised Messiah, peace be on him, announced in his Poster issued on the 7th of December, 1892 that "The main object of the Annual Gathering is that the sincere members of the Jamaat should avail of this opportunity to be benefitted by spiritual influences and they may increase their religious knowledge and be improved in their God-realisation.

He also said, "It has been proposed to hold the Annual Gathering so that the members of the Jamaat may increase their knowledge and they may give their suggestions about the wide preaching and help of Islam and also, with a view to affording them an opportunity to meet their brothers.

He further said that some of the things to be done at the Jalsa were that the suggestions should be offered as to how best Islam could be preached to the people of America and Europe with spiritual sympathy, for, it has been proved beyond doubt that the people of Europe and America are quite ready to accept Islam.

In the same Poster, the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, prayed to God that, "God be with all those who would travel (to Qadian) for this Jalsa (which is to be held only for the pleasure of God) and that He may reward them abundantly and may have mercy on them and may remove their difficulties and make things easy for them: He may also remove their griefs and rid them of all the troubles that may be confronting them and He may open the ways of success for them and He may raise them on the Day of Judgment with those on whom He has shown favours and mercy. He may also protect them —and their kith and kin—during this journey. O, God, the owner of Grandeur and Grace and Mercy and O, Ye who are the remover of difficulties, accept all these prayers and grant us victory with brilliant signs for You alone have the power (to do this).

Extensive arrangements for Jalsa

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On the 8th of November, 1974, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III in his Friday Sermon told the audience that in view of the large number of guests who were expected to attend the Jalsa Salana, it was essential that wider arrangements were made for their lodging. He advised those who have pieces of land at Rabwah, to build even if it was only one room so that some people could be accommodated there. He advised them to contact the Town Committee for the necessary help. He stressed the point that this being the Government of the People (The Prime Minister has also said it on various occasions, that the Government officials should render all the help they could to the common man) the town committee should help all they can in getting these rooms built.

The second point that he dealt with in his Sermon was that those who become the friends of God begin to feel that God also loves them and helps them in every way and at every step. Friendship with God should really become so close that nobody else should be in a position to come in between the two. And if anyone attains to this kind of friendship, then there is nothing that can harm him.

Huzur further said that it was now the duty of the members of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat to bring the people back to God through obedience to the Holy Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him.

He prayed to God that all the members of the Jamaat may be able to do their duty well; they may become the friends of God and they may succeed in making others the friends of God.

———

On Friday the 15th November, 1974 Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III recited the 56th and 57th verses of the Suratul A'araf.

In his Sermon he explained to the audience that 'God has exhorted the believers to shun *I'tida* اعتدا which means going beyond the limits set by God.' He said, "This is such an evil that it deprives man of the love and mercy of God for, it leads him to disorder and mischief and the loss of peace in the world. That is why any nation that has a majority of people indulging in this evil, can never make progress. It is in fact such a disease that one cannot get rid of it through his own intellect. The only thing that can secure man against this evil is that one prays to God very fervently that He may out of His grace save him from this fatal disease."

This sermon of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih was a continuation of his Khutbas in connection with the reactions of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat on the decision of the National Assembly on the 7th of September. He has already told of certain things that the Ahmadis should do in order to win the pleasure of God and to avoid certain things to protect themselves against His wrath.

———

MAJLIS-I-IRSHAD

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The Majlis-i-Irshad held its meeting at the Masjid Mubarak after the Maghrib prayer on the 16th of November 1974. It was presided over by Maulana Abul Ata; Hazrat Khalifatul Masih was unavoidably unable to grace the meeting with his presence. The meeting was started with the recitation of the Holy Quran which was followed by a poetical composition of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him.

Maulana Mohammad Munawar, ex-Missionary for Tanzania, spoke on the subject of Muhkamat and Mutashabihat verses of the Holy Quran. He based his arguments on the commentary of these verses by the Promised Messiah. He remarked that there being two types of verses in no case means that there is any contradiction in this Holy Book. Mutashabihat really meant the verses which had metaphorical sense and could be better understood along with the Muhkamat.

Maulvi Ata-ul-Mujib Rashid ex-Missionary for the United Kingdom addressed the audience on the topic of evolution. He explained at some length how the theory of evolution had been discussed at various times in our history and how the idea had gradually developed to what it is now. He told the audience that the fact of evolution could not be denied rather the Holy Quran supported it very strongly and in a number of verses. What Islam did not subscribe to was that species had been changing and also that man had developed into the present form from something else - to be exact, from monkeys, as the evolutionists generally believe and assert. Man has been man since the very first creation, though the present way of procreation has definitely evolved through various shapes.

Ch. Nazir Ahmad Sajid, Principal of the Tibbiyya College, Rabwah spoke about the service that the Muslims had rendered to the science of medicine in the past. He cited some verses of the Holy Quran, Sayings of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him and some historical incidents to show that Islam and the Muslims had really done a lot for the medicine. He further remarked that the great scientists of Europe do admit their debt to the Muslim pioneers.

Before closing, he referred to the services that have been - and are being rendered by the Khalifas of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him. In this connection he referred to the establishment of the Tibbiyya College by Hazral Khalifatul Masih III.

A collective silent prayer brougnt the function to a close.

(By U. K. Mission)

The Holy Quran

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The Holy Quran is the sacred scripture of the Muslims. It was revealed to the Holy Prophet Mohammad in the last 23 years of his life in exactly the same form as it is in the text without any change of a syllable, letter or a word. It is the record of the verbal revelation from God to His Messenger.

The previous scriptures had undergone considerable changes in their texts. It was, therefore, difficult to discover the real truth concerning the utility and veracity of the dogmas they propounded. Quran alone stands free of interpolations and changes of the human hands.

God, in ages past, had guided mankind by His revelation. The character of the revelation and the coverage was for the exclusive benefit of the tribe to whom the prophet was sent. As the society developed and matured, revelation of a more lasting nature became inevitable. Quran reaffirmed the permanent portions of previous revelations in the scriptures. The lost portions of durable value were revived while those of purely local or temporary application were omitted. Its 114 chapters of varying lengths contain 6,248 verses. Its comprehensiveness is indeed admirable. It contains a universal law which is true for all ages and periods of life to come.

Message of Quran. It gives the message of oneness of God. In presenting the need or a belief in God it gives a number of proofs for His existence. It also explains the fine distinction between God and His attributes. It beautifully expounds their operation. In treating the subject of God, it sets forth His favours, His friendship, love, mercy and also deals about His remembrance, about meeting Him, seeking His forgiveness, about His signs, about spending in his cause, about abstaining from associating partners with Him and glorifying Him with His praise. The Quran contains everlasting commandments for the guidance of mankind. It repeatedly exhorts remembrance of God through observation, reflection, meditation, exercise of reason and understanding, through seeking of knowledge, proper use of emotions through fostering of spiritual matters and gratitude to God for His favours and bounties.

Prophets. Quran mentions about the choosing of prophets from amongst human beings born in this world. They are righteous people who have earned the pleasure of God through their devotion and supplications. He reveals to them some of His secrets. They convey the message of God to the people and warn them of punishment if they reject. To the believers, they give the glad tidings. Their chief mission is to establish the unity of God. Their claims are backed by signs which are prophecies or miracles. The Quran says that there are no people to whom the prophets have not been sent. Quran also vindicates their honour and frees them from all accusations

brought against them by other existing scriptures.

Ange's. Belief in angels is essential. Quran mentions their numerous duties.

Man. It is out of clay that God has created man which means that God has fashioned him to receive the revelation. Various stages for his growth are given in the Quran. The object of his creation is to imbue man with Divine virtues so that he moulds himself in strict conformity to that perfect model. Man is subject to sickness, sorrow and suffering and his aim should be to get rid of these, to jump clear of those limitations to which he is subject, to shed off his frailties and become perfect.

Deeds. Quran, being a book of guidance, tells us what good deeds to foster and what evil deeds to abstain from. It exhaustively treats this subject on its various pages.

Worship. Prayer is the means to establish communion with God. The emphasis is on His remembrance which involves the contemplation of His attributes. The supplicant directly humbles himself and pours forth his soul before Him. God gives us the assurance in the Quran that He listens to the prayers of the supplicant and answers them. Quranic system of prayer consists of daily prayers (salat), charity, fasting, pilgrimage to the House of Allah It also lays emphasis on putting trust in God, showing patience in affliction, frequent remembrance of God and showing gratitude to Him. Numerous prayers are given for the guidance of man in the Quran.

Reward and Punishment. Quran duly treats the philosophy of rewards and punishment. They are the result of human actions. God does not inflict punishment on man unjustly but it follows slowly upon transgression and injustice. It is always given for disregarding the warning of God's Messengers. It can be averted by repentance and amendment. God can ward off the punishment by His mercy. Every person is rewarded for his good actions. Punishment or reward starts from this very world

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Heaven and Hell. Before our gaze, the Quran unfolds the portals of the hereafter. We are permitted to glimpse at what lies beyond life. Two worlds disclose themselves—one of inaffable happiness, the other of unmitigated misery. Both of them stand open to man. The choice is his. The way he bends his steps in this world decides his dwelling place. Quran has amply guided man in this direction. No-one can conceive the reality of Paradise. Higher status is, however, promised to its dwellers. It is a lasting and delightful abode. Hell is a profound mystery that God alone can fathom. It is a painful riddle, a manifestation of an abhorrence of sin. Hell is not an everlasting abode. It helps towards spiritual rebirth.

Salvation. The door of salvation is always open to all It does not stand in need of any pound of flesh or blood or any kind of redemption by crucifixion. Sincere repentance and seeking Allah's forgiveness, believing in God and His messengers and doing good works are the criteria required for salvation. It aims to reform all sinners.

Prophecies. Quran abounds in prophecies which are being fulfilled even these days. These are manifest signs for people to ponder over the truth brought by the messenger of God. Thus the Quran prophesied about the emigration of the Holy Prophet from Mecca and his return to it. There was the prophecy of the battle of Badr, of the battle

of Ahzab, of Arab nations accepting Islam, of the defeat of Persians at the hands of the Romans and of the fall of the latter at the hands of the Muslims, of the safety of the Holy Prophet from the murderous designs of his enemy. For the modern times, it had prophesied about the joining of the seas which actually was fulfilled by the opening of the Suez and Panama Canals. Similarly there are the clear-cut prophecies of huge mountain-like ships floating on seas, of the introduction of the faster means of travel and transport than the camels, of atom bombs blasting off the mountains, of great monarchies breaking to pieces and being replaced by other forms of Government, of cosmic rays, of animals being gathered in the zoos and national parks, of primitive people being cultured and getting together to solve their problems, of legislation against crimes, of the enormous increase in publication of books, of amazing progress in the science of astronomy, of great development in the sciences of geology and minerology, of the connection of the earth with the moon and Mars, of the graves being opened up (as in Egypt), of the spread of sin, of the spread of atheism, of the great world wars, of the hidden knowledge coming to surface, of Jews occupying Palestine, of the Muslims re-occupying it, of decline and fall of Christianity and the rise of Islam. There are scores of other prophecies which have either been fulfilled or shall be fulfilled later on in future ages.

Universe. The Holy Quran throws light on the creation of the universe, its adjustment and co-ordination, the gaseous form of heavens in the beginning and the creation of the heaven in different periods or stages. Earth's creation and revolving round its axis and orbiting round the sun is beautifully given. There is the prophecy of the spreading of the earth, i.e. the discovery of new lands (America and other islands) and of the explorations of the moon and Mars.

International Relations Quran gives clear guidance on international relations and sugges's the principles of forming and running a government, of conducting a war and of making peace. It favours a joint effort to prevent war.

Other Relationships. It gives detailed guidance on marriage, divorce, inheritance, conjugal relations, children, neighbours, rights of wives and husbands, dowry, orphans, widows, heirs, wills, contracts, on spiritual relationships and on scores of other items.

Such is the splendid and comprehensive exposition of the Quran. Its enormous treasures open up a huge sea of knowledge hardly visualised by man. Its meanings sink deeper in the recesses of one's heart. What an exquisite pleasure does its study provide to the reader who ponders over it and reflects over its meaningful language.

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SETH HASSAN OF YADGEER

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(M. A. K. Ghauri, Jamia Ahmadiyya, Rabwah.

(Continued from last issue)

Seth Hassan was also known for his incomparable hospitality. It appears that he had inherited the proverbial hospitality of his Arab ancestors. No one was unwelcome at his table.

The venerable Seth took very keen interest in the matters of public welfare. For many years he ran and maintained two free public dispensaries, where medical aid was given to one and all. If the doctor attended some poor patient at his house, the fee was always paid by the Seth. Owing to drought, once water became extremely scarce in the town and the water arrangements of the town committee failed. He got the water pump of his own garden dismantled and got it refitted at his own expense at the town water supply. For three months all expenses for this were paid by the Seth. Then the town commitree acquired a new water pump.

The Government School at Yadgeer lacked a proper play-ground. The Headmaster and a few respectable citizens came to the Seth, who bought the adjacent land and gave it as a gift from him to the children of the town.

Once a maid-servant pinched some rice and was caught redhanded. His wife was upbraiding her when the Seth happened to come into the house. He told his wife not to reproach the poor woman for she must be in dire need. He said, "Do please give her some more."

The Seth hated show and ostentation and abhorred parading his affluency. On the occasion of the marriage of his own niece, his wife asked him for some money for the bride's gift. The Seth simply kept quiet and though his wife said, "How could I, the wife of a big Seth, go empty handed?" He made her go without a cash gift and said that such customs were extremely bad and harmful to the middle class people. A couple of days later he went to visit the bride at her house and gave her fifteen tolas of gold ornaments. For his own daughter he chose a husband whose father the Seth had once engaged at two rupees per month. He chose the youngman for his goodness only.

Seth Hasan, though a man of humble disposition, guarded his self respect jealously. He never bowed before any man however high in position he might have been. Once His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad paid an official visit to Gulbarga. The Seth was also invited to the Royal Durbar to pay respect to the Ruler. The Seth arrived at the function at the right time. The Master of Ceremonies was flabbergasted to see him clad in his everyday but very neat clothes. Since there was no time to lose the said official began coaching the Seth in the etiquettes and ceremonies of the Durbar and how to salute the Ruler and bow before him and present the "Nazrana"-a token of fealty. He meticulously demonstrated how the Seth was to bow and bend while presenting the "Nazrana". He also gave the Seth his own handkerchief

for that purpose. But the Seth simply walked straight to the Nizam in a very dignified manner and greeted him in the common Islamic way by saying "Assalam-o-Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi". All the court officials and ministers were tonguetied to see this. No one had ever addressed the Nizam in such a manner. This was an unheard of thing. The Seth then enquired after the health of the Nizam and how he had felt during his journey. The Nizam was neither annoyed nor perturbed and fully enjoyed speaking to the Seth for many minutes. He also urged the Seth to make it a point, when he next visited Hyderabad, to see him (the Nizam) at the court. When his business declined his friends advised him to go to the Nizam and seek his financial assistance. But he did not like the idea at all.

Providing education to his own children and the children of his relatives, friends and the people of his town seems to have been a very important aim of the life of Seth Hassan. This was because he, on account of the poverty of his parents, was not afforded the chance to get education. He therefore, spent large amounts of money for providing the necessary means of education for the children of his town. He sent, at his own expense, a large number of boys to Qadian for religious and secular education. He started a school in Yadgeer, all expenses paid by him, in which the number of boys reached over seven hundred. Mr. Alma Lateefi, a retired Revenue Commissioner of the Punjab Government, was once the Director of Education in the State of Hyderabad. Once he met Mufti Mohammad Sadiq, a notable Companion of the Promised Messiah. Mr. Lateefi told him that on an official visit to the private school of Seth Hassan he was amazed to see that the standard of education and discipline of that school was decidedly higher than the Government schools'.

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There was a separate school for the education of the girls of the Jamaat and others. His daughter Zohra Bi was the first mistress of this school. Later the number reached about seventy and other mistresses were also engaged. It must be borne in mind that all the expenses of both these schools were paid by Seth Hassan and that the poor children were not charged any fees.

When the Seth was deeply involved in serious financial difficulties, those who bore antipathy against Ahmadiyyat, derisively awaited his total downfall and bankruptcy. But the Seth assured his friends that he would not die until he became wholly and totally solvent. And so it did happen. When he died he left a thriving business and a considerable estate without encumbrances.

About a year and a half before the Seth died, an angel, in a vision pointed out to him a place assigned for his grave, the clay of which was quite different from that of his own country. He was then made to taste some heavenly delicacies and was shown spectacles the likes of which he had neither tasted nor seen before. He was then taken before the Holy Prophet accompanied by three venerable persons, who, the Holy Prophet said, were Abraham, Moses and Jesus son of Mary. Before retiring the Holy Prophet commanded the Seth to continue in his work of propagating Islam and he also gave him the glad tidings that he (Seth) would be with him (Holy Prophet) in paradise.

For the journey for Hajj, the Seth started in the month of October in 1945 with his wife Rasool Bibi and his son-in-law Maulvi Mohammad Ismail. Arrangements for this jorney had to be made at the shortest notice. He was, therefore, unable to visit Qadian, for which reason he appeared to be quite distressed, and said that on the return journey he would go to see Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad before strating for Hyderabad from Bombay. But alas! this could not be done as he died at Medina on 17th December, 1945 after performing his Hajj and was buried in the sacred cemetry of 'Jannat ul-Baquee'.

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The party that started for Hajj from Hyderabad State had an official leader who was bitterly hostile to Ahmadiyya views. In India and Pakistan there is no dearth of people like him. The demagogue and the factions leader, the parochial Mullah and the biggoted savant all join hands in hostility to the Ahmadis. They rack their brains in devising strange and ridiculous accusations which have no bearing on truth. This leader of the party threatened the Seth that unless he was paid five thousand rupees, he would in Jeddah denounce Ahmadis as apostates. But the Seth paid no heed to him and spurned his threat. Therefore, in Mecca this leader spread the rumour that the Ahmadis come to the Hajj mainly for trying to pinch the Black-Stone of Kaaba. Although this leader enlisted the help of a few more Indian Muslims like him and they did their best to instigate the Arabs against the Ahmadis but, under the protection of God, no harm came to them.

After performing the Hajj, Seth Hassan and his party with the other Hajis proceedcd to Medina. But the Seth, even before starting on the journey, had become ill. When the caravan reached Medina, the Seth had to be carried to the inn on a stretcher. He was badly shivering with fever. When he was being carried he kept his face turned towards the green dome of the tomb of the Holy Prophet. He kept on reciting the 'darood' and other prayers. Best possible medical aid was obtained for him. But he had come to his journey's end. Thirteen days after he arrived in Medina, the Seth passed away at the time when the call to prayers for the Magarib prayers was being called. He was then nearly one hundred years old. To Allah do we all belong and to Him shall we all return.

The hostile element, mentioned above, again tried to put in the spanner in the wheel of fortune and tried their best to stop him being buried in the sacred cemetry of Jannat-ul-Baquee. They pointed out to the authorities that the deceased was an Ahmadi apostate. But all their efforts were of no avail. His burial place had already been assigned by Allah. He was buried in a place of honour-between the tomb of the third Caliph Othman and the graves of the holy family of the Holy Prophet. This is a bounty from Allah, He gives it to whomsoever He Pleases. He lies buried in a place that very many would covet and crave for.

May Allah shower His countless blessings on the soul of this pious and noble man who was one of the most sincere and devoted Companions of the Promised Messiah and who led a life which could easily serve as an example for those who would aspire to walk in the ways of Allah. Amen.

From the Newspapers

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A Matter of Faith

Everything that is there in this universe has bcen created for the benefit of man. It is for him to make use of it and derive the fullest advantage. To discard any of these things is to deprive oneself of a lot of good that could be achieved without much bothering.

Islam teaches us to make use of the medicines when we are sick. It does not say that it is only the medicine that gives us cure; God's grace is the major factor. But God's grace in this case cannot be expected unless we use medicine which has been created by God for our advantage. Some people are there who advocate that medicine should not be used; prayer they say is quite enough. The idea is very erroneous. We reproduce below an incident bearing on this subject, from Time, September, 1973. Under the heading "A Matter of Faith", it says:

"Lawrence Parker, 34, is an unemployed aerospace worker in Barstow, Calif., whose family trusts deeply in its Pentecostal faith. Though their son Wesley, 11, had been suffering from diabetes for five years, Lawrence and Alic Parker took the boy two weeks ago to their local Assembly of God church to be treated by a visiting South American minister who claimed that he had healed himself through prayer. "We believe in faith healing," says Parker. "The Preacher felt that he was healed and Wesley felt that he was healed." So sure were the Parkeis that the cure had worked that they threw out Wesley's insulin.

"Within two days, Wesley was lapsing into periods of unconsciousness. The Rev. Gary Nash, the Parkers' pastor, came to pray, but Wesley spoke only a few words. When Alice Parker decided to buy some fresh insulin, her husband prevented her. Wesley died, and was buried last week with only an undertaker and a gravedigger looking on. His family, believing that he will be resurrected from the grave, stayed home. "I think God is letting it go this far so he can receive the most glory from this when Wesley comes back," Lawrence Parker explained. Pastor Nash, however, was shaken. "There is no reason for Jesus to resurrect this boy," he said. "I think the Parkers have been deceived by Satan." At week's end the Parkers had been arraigned on charges of manslaughter, and Wesley was still in his grave."

(Time, September, 10, 1973)

Ahmadiyya - More Schools, Health Centers

The following news item was broadcast from the Radio Sierra-leone on the 7th and 8th of September 1974. The text was published in the newspapers. It has been taken from the Daily Mail, September 10, 1974:

Foundation stone for a Secondary School and a Mosque to be built at Masingbi by the Ahmadiyya Mission has been laid by the Minister of Social Welfare, Alhaji A. B. S.

Jenneh.

During the ceremony Alhaji Jenneh said that by embarking on such worthwhile projects, the mission would be investing money in the right direction as this would prepare our youths to lead a better life.

Alhaji Jenneh called on the people to give their fullest support to the Mission.

The Member of Parliament for the area, Mr. J. A. Conteh who is Deputy Minister of Mines, in his address said that he hoped that the school would change the characters of children in the Konike Chiefdom and neighbouring Chiefdoms.

The Secretary-General of the Ahmadiyya Mission, Alhaji Kamanda-Bongay gave a brief outline of some of the activities of the Mission since it was established in this country 46 years ago.

He said that during this period 22 primary schools six secondary schools and four hospitals have been built and revealed that there are plans to set up health centres at mile Ninety-one and the Greater Freetown Area.

He pledged the Mission's support for President Stevens and his government.

Head of the Mission in Sierra-Leone, Amir M. I. Munir in his speech said that the building of Mosques, Schools and clinics all over the country would help create a paradise for mankind.

Ahmadiyya College Sanoyea, Liberia was started just a year ago. Mr. John K. Wornor, Supervisor of schools, Gbarnga, Bong County has the following to say about this college:

I visited the Liberian branch of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Movement established in Sanoyea, Bong County on June 5th 1974 at 8.45 a.m. on the old Lutheran Campus. According to the plan and organisation of the newly established school; I feel that it will serve as a light burning in darkness.

I expressed in this manner because their school will have graduate teachers, medical personal and modern hospital in that part of county. As it is always expressed that effective learning takes place when there are qualified, interested, and delegated teachers, appropriate instructional materials available, a conducive place for learning and also a readiness of mind to accept the imparted materials.

I feel that if their plan goes through according to the publication in the Liberian Star, our children will receive sound education and many lives will be saved.

I also extend my thanks and appreciation to the members of the Ahmadiyya Mission in Pakistan who are strongly supporting this programme in the field of education in Sanoyea.

"INVITATION"

TO GIVE TO A FRIEND

ASK FOR IT FROM :

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Can a virgin be pregnant?

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At first, people scoffed at the the women who claimed they had 'miracle' babies. Now, top doctors say virgin births are a a possibility.

by Sue Freeman

DOCTORS and scientists are wrestling with one of the most intriguing theories of modern times — that there are mothers in Britain who became pregnant and bore children without any help from a man.

The ancient Greeks called it parthenogenesis. Today it is called virgin birth, a phenomenon that deeply divides religious and medical men.

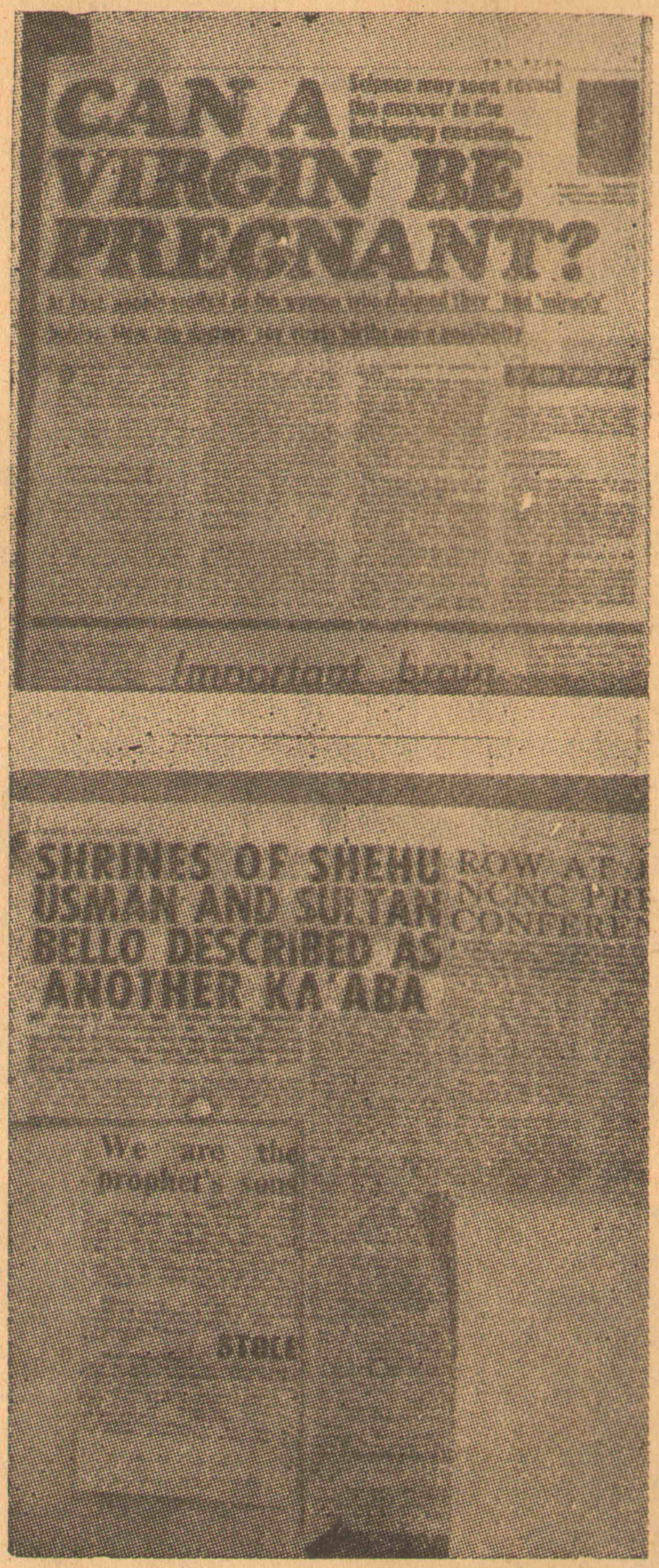
Unexplained and incomprehensible

Throughout history, there have been many miracle births, unexplained and apparently incomprehensible to the doctors or midwives who attended them.

A sister at a Yorkshire hospital who is also a trained midwife said: "I am convinced I experienced a virgin birth. For some months, I lived in great fear because I thought I had a stomach tumour.

"Imagine my horror when after consulting a friend who was a doctor in my hospital, I was told I was five months pregnant. For I had never had intercourse."

A married woman said: "I spent agonising months awaiting the birth of my child. I was terrified. I knew the baby had no father. My husband and I love each other very



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much. We feel the circumstances of my daughter's birth are deeply mysterious,"

But there have been many cases that only *looked* like virgin births. For in stance, Lena Medina, aged four years, from Peru, gave birth to a 6lb. baby. But it was just one of several cases of babies born with their twin still carried as an embryo inside them.

A Manchester widow bore a child nearly 12 months after her husband's death. It was discovered that her pregnancy lasted 347 days.

Shattered Beliefs

With so many of our fundamental beliefs about childbirth being shattered by advances in science—the test tube baby, artificial insemination and the fertility drug—isn't it possible that the most basic one of all, that a woman needs a man to conceive a child, may be on the way out?

What scientists can say for certain is that virgin birth is possible—in animals.

Tests have revealed that under certain conditions mice, rabbits, chikens, turkeys and a small fish called the guppy, have all fertilised their ova (eggs) without any help from a male.

Today, two leading biologists, Dr. Chris Graham, of Oxford University and Dr. Tarkoski of Warsaw University have succeeded in getting the ova in female mice, which take 21 days to give birth, to develop for up to 10 days without any contact with male mice.

The significance of this is that the first two week of pregnancy in mice and women is very similar.

No doctor has been able to disprove the possibility of virgin births. Dr. Stanley Balfour-Lynn, a leading Harley Street physician, says: "We just don't know. But I consider it a serious possibility."

Dr. Chris Graham said: "We could perform more than 60 tests on a mother and child to see whether they were identical in their make-up and whether the child had any male genes from the father."

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If a virgin birth was possible, according to Dr. Helen Spurway, eminent lecturer in engenics (the science of birth), the child would almost certainly be female. The odds are she would also be the exact replica of her mother.

Developing Independently

A virgin birth need not be a first child. And, despite its name, it need not be the child of a virgin.

Normally a man provides the seed which makes a child grow inside its mother. But in virgin birth, the egg inside the mother starts developing on its own into a baby in a way which doctors do not understand.

Where does the truth lie in this historical mystery?

One thing is clear: many doctors and scientists believe in the the theoratical possibility of virgin births; as do many mothers throughout history who have claimed this miracle for themselves and their children.

The Star (Karachi) March 18, 1974

Shrines of Shehu Usman and Sultan Bello Described as Another Ka'aba

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Mr. Sayed El Masry, the United Arab Republic's Acting Consul-General in Northern Nigeria, speaking in Kaduna over the week end, has described the shrines of Shehu Usman and Sarkin Musulmin Bello as another "two distinct but equally great Ka'aba."

Mr. Masry was speaking after a visit to the two shrines.

The Acting Consul-General, who was on a four-day visit to Sokoto Province on the invitation of the Premier of the North, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello. the Sardauna of Sokoto rounded up his itinerary on Wednesday with a visit to the Premier's farm at Bakura where he was told bv the Premier that in place of the poultry, wheat and citron farms, once stood a thick forest, adding that the work so far accomplished in the farm started just over a year ago on manual labour.

Earlier, on arrival in Sokoto on Idul Fitr eve, the Acting Consul-General who was quartered in the Premier's Guest House had paid a courtesy visit to the Premier at his Sokoto residence.

In the morning of the Sallah day, Mr. Masry joined the Sultan, Sir Abubakar ; the Premier ; Ministers ; the Provincial Commissioner for Kano ; the Wazian Sokoto, Malam Junaidu ; high Governments officials and very important personalities in prayer on the Idi ground and later listened to Sultan's Sallah address to the people.

In the afternoon of last Monday, the third day of the visit, the U.A.R. Acting Consul-General paid a courtesy call on the Sultan in his palace and in a thirty-minute ceremony presented Sir Abubakar with 150 copies of the Holy Quran.

Presenting the Holy Qurans Mr. Masry expressed to the Sultan the good wishes and hearty brotherly feelings which the leaders and people of the U.A.R. have for their Northern Nigerian brother leaders and people. He praised the spirit of reverence which the people of the North has for Mujaddidin Shehu Usmanu dan Fodio and his successors.

Concluding his presentation speech, Mr. Masry expressed the wishes of the people of the UAR that in no distant future the Sultan would be able to visit the U.A.R.

In a brief reply, the Sultan thanked Mr. Masry for "these wonderful presents" adding that he would be glad to visit Egypt at the appropriate time.

Daily Mail (Nigeria) March 4, 1963

Sacrificial Slaughtering

In his Friday Sermon delivered on the 2nd of November, 1974, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III appealed to the members of the Jamaat that they should slaughter their sacrificial animals on the occasion of the coming Idul Azhiya, at Rabwah. That would also be the occasion of Annual Jalsa and it would lessen the burden which is being felt due to the dearness of all the necessities of life. At Rabwah, he said, arrangements would be made to spread the slaughtering on three days so that a smooth supply of meat could be available to the Jalsa organisers. Those who are staying away from Rabwah and would not be able to attend the Jalsa have been asked to try all they can to make the scrificial slaughtering at Rabwah ; they could do so by sending fifty to seventy rupees for a share in the cow and one hundred twenty to one hundred fifty rupees for a ram or a goat.

This money should be sent to the Afsar Jalsa Salana, Rabwah.

This is Khilafat

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The Promised Messiah says :

Since no human being can live for ever God willed that the Messengers who are the best of the creation should be made to live till the Day of Resurrection through the persons who should act like their shadow. And that is why the institution of Khilafat - so that the world may always continue to receive the blessings of prophethood.

(Shahadatul Quran p. 58)

When a Messenger or great saintly person passes away, it is as if the world is shaken by an earthquake and that time is indeed a very frighlful time. But God removes this sense of fear through a Khalifa and then it so happens that the people are granted a fresh reformation and they are established strongly through that Khalifa.

(Al-Hakam 14.4.1908)

This is the practice of God and since the creation of this world He has been doing like that - that He helps His Messengers and grants them dominance over others. The seed of the truth which they want to establish and (get widely accepted) is sown by their own hands but its growth does not take place through them. Rather they are made to pass away from this world at such a time that it seems as if their Mission has failed and thus He gives the enemies an opportunity of laughing and mocking at them. When the enemies have mocked at them, He shows another manifestation of His and brings about such changes that whatever had remained incomplete, attains to completion. In short He manifests two kinds of His powers : First at the hand of His Messengers He shows His power and, then at a time when the Messenger passes away and the difficulties rear their head and the enemies seem to have gained power and they begin to think that all what the Messenger did has been undone and the Community becomes a prey to doubt and it is as if their backs have been broken and some of the unfortunate people take to apostacy, then God manifests the second power of His which He does in a very strong manner and He gives strength to the weakening Community. Those who are patient and steadfast till the end, see the miracle of God as did those who lived in the days of Hazrat Abu Bakr - the miracle was shown on the demise of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, which was considered to be very untimely and many of the villagers had gone back on their heels and the Companions of the Holy Prophet (may God be pleased with them) had almost run mad with grief. God, at this time, raised Hazrat Abu Bakr and showed His manifestation through him and thus saved Islam from being wiped out.

So my dear ones, since this is the practice of God that he shows two manifestations of His so that two false joys of the enemies be trampled down, it is not possible that He should now abandon this practice of His. You, therefore, should not be grieved at what I have told you nor your minds should be troubled, for, it is essential that the second manifestation should also be shown to you. The fact of his

coming is better for you, for that manifestation is eternal and it will not be terminated till the Day of Resurrection. The second manifestation cannot be ushered into the world until I go. But when I will go, God will usher the second manifestation into the world for you and that manifestation will stay with you for ever.

(Al-Wasiyyat)

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Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I, may God be pleased with him, says:

I have repeatedly said this thing to you and I have shown it to you from the Holy Quran as well, that it is not the business of the human beings to appoint a Khalifa; this is the business of God. Who made Adam a Khalifa? God says: *Inni jaailun fil arzi Khalifatun*. The angels raised some objection to Adam being appointed a Khalifa and said that he would be *Mufsid fil arzi* and *mufsikaddam* (one who creates disorder and sheds blood). But what did they gain by raising objections. You should read the Holy Quran and you will find that evenutally they had to prostrate for the sake of Adam (they had to submit to him). So if anybody raises objections (to what I say and what I do) and he be an angel, I will tell him that he should prostrate for the sake of the Khilafat of Adam, and it will be better for him. However, if such a person shows pride and refuses to do so and thus wishes to become *Iblis* let him remember the result of the opposition that *Iblis* offered to Adam.

I say it again that if someone who is angel-like objects to my Khilafat his good nature will bring him to the position of *Usjodoo li Adama* (submit to Adam) If he is *iblis*, he will be pushed out of my presence.

Another Khalifa was Daud (David). *Ya Daudo inna ja-alnaka Khalifatan fil arzi*. (O Daud we have appoinnted you Khalifa in the land) Daud was also appointed a Khalifa by God Himself. His opponents agitated against him to such an extent that they—and they were anarchists—attacked his fortress and forced into it. But who can succeed against the Khalifa appointed by God? Later on God appointed Hazrat Abu Bakr and Omar as Khalifas. Don't you see that tens of millions of people pray for the blessings of God to be showered on Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Omar. I swear by God that I, too, have been appointed a Khalifa by God Himself. (The Badr 4.7.1912.)

Whatever the kind of Khalifa, he is appointed by God Himself. Adam was appointed a Khalifa by God and so was Daud. All of us have been made Khalifas by no one but God Himself. God says to the successors of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him.

وعدالله الذين آمنوا منكم وعملوا الصلحت
ليستخلفنهم فى الارض كما استخلف الذين
من قبلهم وليمكنن لهم دينهم الذى وارتضى
لهم و ليبدلنهم من بعد خوفهم امنا
(سوره نور)

Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them successors in the earth; as He made successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them security and peace after their fear.

Those who are appointed Khalifas from among the true believers,

are also appointed by God Himself. They are confronted with fear but God grants them security and strength. Whenever there is any sort of disorderliness, God arranges for them to have peace. He who does not believe in them, begins to decrease in his good deeds and is gradually deprived of religious activities.

God the Almighty said to the angels that He would appoint a Khalifa, for, He informs His near ones of the things which are destined to happen in future and He does so whenever He likes. The (angels) raised objections but they did so respectfully. Once, somebody said to me that the great Ulema are raising objections to the claim of the Promised Messiah and I told him that however great they might be they can't be greater than the angels. And even the angels had raised objection (to the Khilafat of Adam) by saying

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اتجعل فيها من يفسد فيها و يسفك الدماء

Are you going to appoint him Khalifa who will cauae disorder and who will shed blood? The angels said that O, our Lord, we have said what struck our mind but you are Holy and we praise You. God's selection was very correct, but the intellects of the angels could not grasp the situation. (Al-Fazl 17.9.1913)

Whoever was the rightful person in the sight of Allah, Allah made him Khalifa and whoever opposes him is a liar and a disobedient person. You should obey me like the angels.

(The Badr 4.7.1912)

God has made me Khalifa. I cannot be deposed simply because you say that I should be deposed nor anyone has the power to do so..... Behold my prayers are heard at the heavens. My Lord accomplishes my task even before I have prayed for it. To oppose me is to oppose God.....Whoever goes against the decision of Hazrat Sahib (the Promised Messiah, peace be on him), is not an Ahmadi. You have no right to talk about the matters which were not touched upon by the Hazrat Sahib (the Promised Messiah). You should not express your opinions (criticise) until the Khalifa expresses his own opinion, or another Khalifa replaces him (i. e. in the case of the demise of the first Khalifa).

(The Badr 11.7.1912)

There is an important point (of spiritual significance) in the book published by Hazrat Sahib (the Promised Messiah) and let me explain it to you at some length. Whoever was to become Khalifa (after the Promised Messiah) he left his case in the hands of God and told the fourteen persons that "you are, in your collective position, the Khalifatul Masih. Your decision will be final and the Government will also take it as such." Then all the fourteen persons were made to take Baiat at the hand of one person and were told that they should accept him as their Khalifa and thus he gathered all the people round one person. In this case not only fourteen persons but the whole community unanimously accepted me as Khalifa. Now, whoever goes against this collective decision, really opposes God. He says :

و يتبع غير سبيل المؤمنين نوله ما تولى

و نصله جهنم و ساءت مصيرا(سورة النساء)

(And follows a way other than that of the believers, we shall let him pursue the way he is pursuing and shall cast him in to Hell; and an evil destination it is).

I have read the Al-Wasiyyat well. It is true that the fourteen persons have been appointed Khalifa and the opinion of the majority of them has been declared to be the final decision. But, now, behold, that these righteous people (who were selected by the Hazrat Sahib as his Khalifa) collectively appointed one person as their Khalifa and Amir (Head or Leader) and then not only those fourteen persons but thousands of others were made to sail in the same boat in which they had decided to sail; do you think that the whole of the boat will be sunk and everybody will be drowned? Never. You should listen to me attentively. If you will go against this pledge then you will apply:

فاعقبهم نفاقا فی قلوبهم

(So He requited them with hypocrisy which shall last in their hearts) to yourselves.

Why have I related this thing to you? Because some of you who do not have enough of understanding are showing weakness again and again. I do not think that they know more than I do.

God has appointed me to do this task and I swear by God that I will never take off this garment that God has made me wear. If you oppose me and even if the whole world opposes me, I will not care a fig for this opposition. God's Mamur (the Promised Messiah) has said it and he has said it through his experience, that He will not let this community be ruined. His works are wonderful and His vision is all pervading. You should fulfil your pledge and then you will see how quick and grand is your success and progress.

(The Badr 21.10.1909)

(To be continued)

A Book of Hadith

NIBRASUL MOMINEEN

One hundred Sayings of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be on him,

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Maulana Abul Ata

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